

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY

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May 15, 1979

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

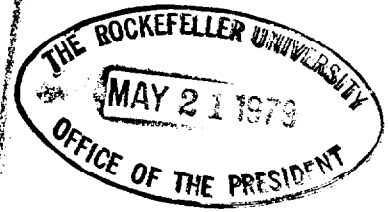
I am writing to you at the suggestion of Mr. Steven Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Philosophy. Since I am the Institute's Director of Educational Programs, Mr. Rosenberg thought it would be most fitting for me to describe to you the Institute and its educational goals. Enclosed is a copy of my curriculum vitae for your perusal.

Naturally, I am quite excited about the interest you expressed in the possibility of forming an association between Rockefeller University and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Philosophy.

As you probably know from previous literature sent to you, the Institute opened in October of 1978. To date, its programs of research seminars and conferences have been funded by the Bernard W. Schlesinger Foundation, which has committed itself to putting approximately \$50,000.00 annually in grant funds at the disposal of the Institute. Expenditures for 1978 totalled approximately \$15,000.00.

During the 1979-1980 year, we plan to seek additional major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the New York Council for the Humanities and various Foundations.

The Primary objective of the Institute has been defined as the establishment of a forum where philosophers, scientists and members of other professions, who are interested in conducting original research in philosophy and on the



philosophical issues raised by work in their own professions, can meet to discuss and explore the values, assumptions and principles under which they operate.

During the academic year 1978-1979, a series of research seminars on such topics as ethics, epistemology, aesthetics and on philosophical issues in such fields as genetics and behavioral science were conducted at N. Y. U. Medical Center and in the facilities of the Bernard W. Schlesinger Foundation. They were open by invitation or application to selected scholars who were most likely to challenge or provoke discussion or stimulate new approaches. From the attached material, you may convince yourself that the list of participants included a distinguished array of thinkers. This summer the program will be continued with three seminars: Great Thinkers in the History of Philosophy, Human Heredity & Freedom and Theoretical Problems in Psychiatry (see attached folder for descriptions). These meetings will be held at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center through the Laboratory of Human Genetics under Dr. R. S. K. Chaganti.

During the academic year 1979-1980, we plan to expand our activities by initiating the following projects:

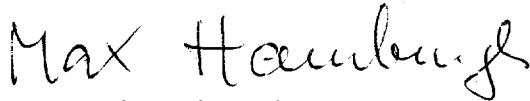
- 1) Each of the bi-weekly seminars listed in the attached brochure will be supplemented by a once-a-year weekend conference (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) to which some of the more prominent spokesmen, as well as interested and active scholars who have not yet attained full recognition for their work in their respective fields, are to be invited. The main objective of these conferences will be to provide a forum for scholars doing original research, who are not yet widely known, to present their results and have them critically challenged by their peers. Thus the Institute for Advanced Studies in Philosophy will be the proper place for testing out new ideas and theories in philosophy. The rationale for the program is that it is to the benefit of society if more individuals are encouraged to put their creative imaginations to productive use than is the case now.
- 2) Arrangements will be made for publication of the Proceedings of both the bi-weekly research seminars and the annual weekend conferences planned for Spring of 1980.

- 3) The Leadership Project: This project is designed to provide outstanding minority group students the opportunity to train under the most eminent leaders in the particular professions the students plan to pursue (see attached preliminary proposal for the Leadership Project).
- 4) Establishment of a National Museum of Philosophy here in New York City. (A proposal now near completion will be mailed to you upon completion.)

Incidentally, I joined Columbia University as a graduate student of Dr. L. C. Dunn sometime after you left, and I have admired your Nobel Prize winning work on bacterial genetics greatly, even though my training was mainly limited to mouse genetics.

Both Mr. Rosenberg and I look forward to meeting with you on a mutually convenient date.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max Hamburgh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Max Hamburgh, Ph.D.
Director of Educational Programs
Institute for Advanced Studies in
Philosophy;
Professor & Director
Program of Anatomical Science,
Center for Biomedical Education
of The City College, C.U.N.Y.